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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR
A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Seventh session
New York, 15-20 March 1993
Agenda item 7

# ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS SEVENTH SESSION

Draft report*

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Addendum

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## V. STATUS OF SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION

1. At its 1st meeting, on 15 March, the Committee noted that there were currently 160 signatories to the Convention and that ratifications, acceptances, approvals or accessions had been deposited by 15 States. A sixteenth ratification had been received.

2. The Committee took note of the information provided by the interim secretariat on the rectification of the text of the Convention.

3. The Committee expressed its appreciation to those States that had ratified the Convention and urged other signatories to do the same as soon as possible so that the Convention might enter into force. It invited those signatories to inform the interim secretariat of the expected timing of their ratification, and requested the secretariat to submit that information to the Committee at its eighth session.

## VII. REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERIM SECRETARIAT, INCLUDING REVIEW OF EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS

4. At the 5th meeting, on 17 March, the Executive Secretary introduced the note by the Executive Secretary containing a review of the activities of the interim secretariat, including a review of extrabudgetary funds (A/AC.237/28).

Current activities of the interim secretariat

5. It was decided that the matter of clearing-house activities would be taken up by Working Group II under agenda item 2 (b).

6. The Executive Secretary provided information to the Committee on the information and training programme being developed by the interim secretariat and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); on cooperation with the Information Unit on Climate Change of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); on the development of data-processing capacities for the interim secretariat; and on the secretariat's plans to convene a meeting of entities of the United Nations system before the eighth session of the Committee.

(a) Information and training programme (A/AC.237/28, sect. I.B)

7. The Committee expressed appreciation to all partners involved with the interim secretariat in the elaboration, development and financing of the project for the pilot phase of the information and training programme. It looked forward to receiving information at its eighth session on the implementation of the project.

(b) Cooperation with the UNEP Information Unit on Climate Change (A/AC.237/28, sect. II.C)

8. The Committee welcomed the collaboration between the interim secretariat and the UNEP Information Unit on Climate Change in several areas, including the production of a climate change newsletter, the first issue of which was expected in the second quarter of 1993.

(c) Development of data-processing capacities (A/AC.237/28, sect. II.D)

9. The Committee expressed appreciation to the Government of Switzerland for its generous contribution to the development of data-processing capacities for the interim secretariat.

(d) Information on relevant activities of the United Nations system (A/AC.237/28, sect. II.E)

10. The Committee noted that the interim secretariat would convene a meeting of entities of the United Nations system having activities related to the Convention and report to the Committee at its eighth session on activities relating to climate change in the United Nations system as a whole, and on the coordination of efforts in this field.

Administrative and budgetary matters

11. The Executive Secretary said that once the current restructuring exercise had been approved by the General Assembly, the interim secretariat would become part of the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. That would have positive benefits, as had been indicated in the statement made by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. Regarding the allocation of staff resources, he assumed that the present level of staffing would be maintained. He pointed out, however, that it was not yet clear whether the interim secretariat would be strengthened, as had been requested in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 47/195. He indicated that the new phase of work in the Committee would require new skills and make new demands.

12. Several representatives referred to the positive commitment to strengthening the interim secretariat made by the Under-Secretary-General in his statement to the Committee. They emphasized that the interim secretariat should have sufficient resources to carry out its functions up to the first session of the Conference of the Parties. It was agreed that delegations to the Committee would keep their respective delegations to other bodies of the United Nations informed of the need to strengthen the interim secretariat.

13. The Committee noted with appreciation the positive statement delivered by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development at the 1st meeting, on 15 March, and his assurances with regard to the future of the interim secretariat and its resources.

14. The Committee welcomed the offer of staff support from the Executive Director of UNEP in her statement before the Committee at its 2nd meeting, also on 15 March.

15. The Committee noted that its work at the present session had been supported by substantive documentation prepared by its secretariat. It would expect similar support on all aspects of its work at future sessions. It further noted that the scope of its evolving work programme in preparation for the first session of the Conference of the Parties (see A/AC.237/24, sect. V) would call for new types of expertise within the secretariat.

16. Consequently, the Committee emphasized that the interim secretariat should be strengthened, in accordance with paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 47/195, so that the secretariat would be able to carry out additional responsibilities in support of the Committee's work in the following areas:

Communication and review of information under the Convention;

Implementation of article 11 and article 21, paragraph 3, of the Convention, related to the financial mechanism;

Promotion of capacity-building in accordance with the Convention and General Assembly resolution 47/195.

17. The Committee invited the Executive Secretary to draw to the attention of the Secretary-General the need to identify and obtain additional staff resources for work in those areas in the period up to and including the first session of the Conference of the Parties.

Extrabudgetary funds

18. The Executive Secretary said that 114 countries were eligible for funding from the special voluntary fund for financing participation in the Committee's sessions. Of those countries, ____ had benefited from support for their participation in the seventh session. The commitments from that fund would amount to an estimated US$ 3 million up to and including the seventh session. He informed the Committee that the projected cost of funding participation in the eighth session was US$ 600,000. He expressed the hope that funding for such participation would be forthcoming.

19. With regard to the trust fund for the negotiating process that was used to defray secretariat expenses, the Executive Secretary indicated that US$ 1 million had been received through that fund. He expressed thanks to contributors for their support.

Review of extrabudgetary funds

20. The Committee expressed appreciation to those countries that had provided contributions to the trust fund for the negotiating process and to the special voluntary fund for the participation of developing countries in the sessions of the Committee, as well as to those that provide bilateral funding for staff positions in the interim secretariat. It expressed the hope that sufficient contributions would be forthcoming for the special voluntary fund to maintain effective participation at the eighth session of the Committee and beyond.

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